

**REMARKS**

**1. Claim Objections**

The Office Action mailed on November 29, 2005 stated that the abbreviations in claims 1 and 7 needed to be deciphered. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim objections have been overcome.

**2. Allowed Claims**

Applicants graciously acknowledge that the Examiner stated that claims 4 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted below limitations from claim 4 have been incorporated into new independent claim 14. Also limitations from claims 4 and 6 have been incorporated into new dependent claims, 10 and 8, respectively.

**3. Claim rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103**

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rabin (U.S. Patent No. 6,603,464) in view of Ornato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,457,312) and Segawa et al. (Pub. No. 2004/0019879). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segawa et al., Rabin, and Ornato et al., and further in view of Sekura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,383). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segawa et al., Rabin, and Ornato et al., and further in view of Albaum et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,758,095). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

**A. Claims 1-6**

Independent claim 1 as recites “each column corresponding to a determined printed time.” The rejection acknowledged that Rabin does not disclose this limitation. The rejection relied upon

Ornato et al. as disclosing this limitation in Fig. 2, items 1-10 and Col. 5, lines 2-23. Ornato et al. is directed toward an electronic clip board. *See, e.g.*, Fig. 1. However, Ornato et al. does not disclose a chart having several columns, each column corresponding to a determined printed time that may, for example, be captured by a digital tip of a pen.

Claim 1 also recites “comparing said recording time with the localized printed time of said data, so as to detect any inconsistency between the recording time and the printed time.” The rejection acknowledges that Rabin and Ornato et al. do not disclose comparing the recording time with the localized printed time of the data, so as to detect any inconsistency between the recording time and the printed time.

The rejection relies upon Segawa et al. to overcome this deficiency. However, Segawa et al. relates to a method for exclusively controlling write requests to a structured document from a plurality of separate terminals to prevent conflicting amendments to the same document element by different terminals at the same time. *See, e.g.*, Abstract; Para. 0076. Hence, Segawa et al. is not relevant to the present invention, as it does not relate to the recording of data, including time data, from an observation form, and the subsequent verification of the time data.

Furthermore, Segawa et al. does not disclose comparing the recording time with the localized printed time so as to detect any inconsistency as recited by claim 1. While Segawa et al. may disclose comparing two recorded times, the recorded times bear no resemblance to the printed time and recording time that are compared in the present invention. In particular, according to Segawa et al., when data in a monitor field of a document stored in a document data management apparatus is to be updated, a version of this data is transferred to a terminal. The data is copied along with a time value indicating when the data was last updated, *i.e.*, the last write time. When

the data has been updated, the terminal generates a write request having a last write time. The document data management apparatus compares this last write time with the last write time currently stored associated with that monitor field, and if they are the same, it will allow the write request, and change the last write time to the current time. However, if the received last write time is earlier, this indicates that the data updated at the terminal was not the most current version of the data, and therefore the write request is refused to avoid an amendment that conflicts with earlier amendment. *See, e.g.* para. 0076, 0170, and 0171. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable.

Additionally, claims 2-6 depend upon claim 1 and should be allowable for similar reasons. Claim 2 recites “comparing the recording time and/or the localized printed time and/or the current time with a preregistered prescript time of a given prescript action monitored by said chart, so as to detect an eventual miss of the prescript action.” The rejection acknowledges that neither Rabin, Ornato et al., nor Segewa et al. disclose this limitation. The rejection relies upon col. 19, lines 1-4 of Sekura et al. as disclosing this limitation. However, col. 19, lines 1-4 of Sekura et al. merely states “the skipping means comprises a snooze button which silences an alarm activated when the patient misses use of the prescription.” Hence, the portion of Sekura et al. relied upon by the rejection does not disclose detecting an eventual miss of a prescript action by comparing the recording time and/or the localized printed time and/or the current time with a preregistered prescript time of a given prescript action monitored by a chart.

Claim 3 recites generating an alert if a difference between the localized printed time and the recording time exceeds a predetermined threshold. The rejection relies upon para. 0076 of

Segewa et al. as disclosing this limitation. However, para. 0076 of Segewa et al. merely discloses preventing a “current write access,” not generating an alert.

**B. Independent Claim 7**

Independent claim 7 is a means-plus-function element and should be interpreted in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 6. Claim 7 recites a “means for registering along with data hand written in one column at one time, its recording time.” The rejection admits on page 4 of the Office Action that Rabin does not disclose the means for registering along with data hand written in one column at one time. Instead, the rejection stated that Ornato et al. teaches this limitation at Col. 5, ll. 2-23. However, Ornato et al. is directed toward illuminated clipboards. *See, e.g.,* Abstract. The corresponding structure associated with this means-plus-function limitation that is disclosed by the present application is a digital pen or a computerized system. Ornato et al. does not disclose a digital pen, nor an equivalent structure. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome.

**4. New Claims 8-20**

Additionally, new claims 8-13 depend upon claim 7 and should be allowable for similar reasons. Moreover, claim 8 recites “means for collecting information on drug administration from several observation forms for drug stock evaluation,” similar to previously allowed claim 6.

Claim 10 recites “said prescript time is automatically deduced from another chart,” similar to previously allowed claim 4. Claims 11-13 depend upon claim 10.

New independent claim 14 recites “comparing the recording time and/or a localized printed time of said data and/or the current time with a preregistered prescript time of a given prescript action monitored by said chart, so as to detect an eventual miss of the prescript action,

**Application No. 10/632,588**  
**Amendment Dated February 27, 2006**  
**Response to Office Action Mailed November 29, 2005**

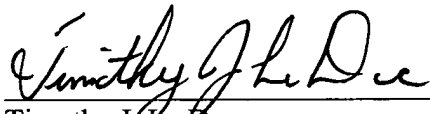
wherein said prescript time is automatically deduced from another chart.” This limitation is derived from previously allowed claim 4. The Office Action admitted on page 7 that this limitation was not disclosed by the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 14 is allowable. Claims 15-20 depend upon claim 14 and should be allowable for similar reasons.

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**SUMMARY**

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (312) 321-4277.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy J. Le Duc", written over a horizontal line.

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